

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A fine filter assembly for a dishwasher, said fine filter assembly comprising a filter body comprising an inlet and an outlet, said inlet located substantially adjacent said outlet, and an extended flow path joining said inlet and said outlet.

5                   2. A fine filter assembly in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said flow path is sloped from said inlet to said outlet.

3. A fine filter assembly in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said body comprises a circular outer perimeter, said flow path extending substantially 360 radial degrees around said outer perimeter.

10                   4. A fine filter assembly in accordance with Claim 3 said flow path substantially helical between said first end and said second end.

5. A fine filter assembly in accordance with Claim 4, said body further comprising a weir extending from said outer perimeter.

15                   6. A fine filter assembly in accordance with Claim 1, said flow path wider at said outlet than at said inlet.

7. A fine filter assembly in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising a filter screen disposed over a top of said filter body.

8. A filter assembly in accordance with claim 1 wherein said filter body is bowl-shaped.

20                   9. A fluid circulation assembly for a dishwasher system, said fluid circulation assembly comprising:

a main pump assembly;

a drain pump assembly in flow communication with said main pump assembly; and

a fine filter assembly in flow communication with said main pump assembly and with said drain pump assembly, said fine filter assembly comprising a filter body comprising an inlet and an outlet, said inlet located substantially adjacent said outlet, and an extended flow path joining said inlet and said outlet.

5                    10. A fluid circulation assembly in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said flow path is sloped from said inlet to said outlet.

11. A fluid circulation assembly in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said body comprises a circular outer perimeter, said flow path extending substantially 360 radial degrees around said outer perimeter.

10                    12. A fluid circulation assembly in accordance with Claim 11, said flow path substantially helical between said first end and said second end.

13. A fluid circulation assembly in accordance with Claim 12, said body further comprising a weir extending from said outer perimeter.

15                    14. A fluid circulation assembly in accordance with Claim 9, said flow path wider at said outlet than at said inlet.

15. A fine filter assembly in accordance with Claim 9 further comprising a filter screen disposed over a top of said filter body.

16. A filter assembly in accordance with claim 9 wherein said filter body is bowl-shaped.

20                    17. A dishwasher system comprising:

a tub comprising a sump portion;

a fluid circulation assembly in flow communication with said sump portion, said fluid circulation assembly including a fine filter assembly, said fine filter assembly comprising a filter body comprising an inlet and an outlet, said inlet located substantially adjacent said outlet, and an extended flow path joining said inlet and said outlet.

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18. A fluid circulation assembly in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said flow path is sloped from said inlet to said outlet.

5 19. A fluid circulation assembly in accordance with Claim 18 wherein said body comprises a circular outer perimeter, said flow path extending substantially 360 radial degrees around said outer perimeter.

20. A fluid circulation assembly in accordance with Claim 19 said flow path substantially helical between said first end and said second end.

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